Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 188299 ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-05 CA-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 DEAE-00 INSE-00 /047 R

DRAFTED BY HA:ORM:HBCUSHING:CAF APPROVED BY HA:ORM:HBCUSHING EA/RA - JFRIEDMAN

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O P 261429Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG TO MACAU

REF: HONG KONG 09547

- 1. GIVEN LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN CATEGORIES I, II, AND III ALREADY IN COUNTRIES OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM AND INCREASED RATE OF ESCAPES COMPARED WITH MONTHLY LRP QUOTAS FOR BOAT REFUGEES, IT MAY BE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE CAT, IV REFUGEES CAN BE INCLUDED WITHIN MONTHLY U.S. ALLOCATIONS.
- 2. MACAU CENTER IS NOT, HOWEVER, RESTRICTED TO US GUARANTEED REFUGEES. REQUEST GENEVA ADVISE UNHCR TO INSTRUCT SAMPAT-KUMAR AND CARPENTER EXPEDITIOUSLY TO EXPLOIT OPPORTUNITY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REDUCE BOTH REFUGEE POPULATION IN HK AND THE VERY EXPENSIVE CARE AND MAINTENANCE COSTS PUSHING UP UNHCR'S INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM BUDGET DEFICIT. TO REDUCE COSTS, WE URGE UNHCR TO ARRANGE TO MOVE AS MANY REFUGEES AS POSSIBLE NOW FROM HONG KONG TO MACAU, UP TO NUMBER WHICH LATTER CAN ACCOMMODATE. PRESUMABLY, THIS WOULD INCLUDE REFUGEES IN CAT. IV, INCLUDING THOSE WITH TIES TO THE U.S. WHO ARE LIKELY TO

BE ACCEPTED EVENTUALLY, SUCH AS MARRIED SIBLINGS AND OTHER RELATIVES, AND ALSO OTHER REFUGEES WITHOUT ANY TIES.

- 3. EARLIER CABLES ON NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING MACAU CENTER INDICATE THAT NEITHER ITS CAPACITY NOR THE TIME LIMIT FOR INDIVIDUALREFUGEE'S RESIDENCE THERE IS INFLEXIBLY SET. IN VIEW OF CONGEN HK'S PROJECTIONS OF REFUGEE ARRIVALS, DEPT. BELIEVES UNHCR REPS SHOULD PRESS IMMEDIATELY AND CONTINUOUSLY TO MAXIMIZE UTILITY OF MACAU CENTER BY SHIFTING A MIX OF REFUGEES THERE, BUT PERHAPS NOT ANY IPP APPROVED REFUGEES OR THOSE APPROVED IN STATE 184536, PARA 2B, SINCE THEIR DEPARTURES FOR US COULD BE EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN PRESENT AND EARLY OCTOBER.
- 4. HKG HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE GUARANTEES ON ALL REFUGEES WHOSE RESETTLEMENT NOT ASSURED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS, SO THERE IS NO NEED TO TIE ACTION TO U.S. CATEGORIES. THEREFORE NOTHING OBSTRUCTS EARLIEST INITIATION OF THIS PROJECT SO IMPORTANT TO ALLEVIATING BUDGET AND OVERCROWDING PROBLEMS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: REFUGEES Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 26 jul 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE188299
Document Source: Core

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: ORM:HBCUSHING:CAF

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780306-0692

Format: TEL

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780718/aaaaapam.tel

Line Count: 82 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: def6576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN HA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 HONG KONG 9547

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 20 apr 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1878895 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG TO MACAU

TAGS: SREF To: GENEVA HONG KONG MULTIPLE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/def6576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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